

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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PRS-01 FRB-03 ITC-01 AGRE-00 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07
LAB-04 OIC-02 EPG-02 SIL-01 STR-04 CEA-01 DOTE-00
FMC-01 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07 DHA-02 CU-02 HEW-04
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UN

SUBJECT: UN ADMINISTRATION - 17TH SESSION OF COMMITTEE
FOR PROGRAM AND COORDINATION (CPC)

REF: A. USUN 1896; B. USUN 1792; C. USUN 1747; D. USUN 1737;
E. USUN 1715

1. SUMMARY COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND COORDINATION (CPC) MET
FOR FOUR STRENUOUS WEEKS MAY 23-JUNE 17, AND ALTHOUGH
IT FAILED TO COMPLETE ITS AGENDA, (NOTABLY IT DID NOT COVER
THE PROPOSED PROGRAM BUDGET SECTION BY SECTION), IT DID
A CREDITABLE JOB IN EXAMINING PROGRAM PRIORITIES IN
SELECTED AREAS, DESPITE EXTREMELY POOR SECRETARIAT
DOCUMENTATION. END SUMMARY

2. AT ITS MAY 23-JUNE 17 SESSION CPC WAS ONCE AGAIN FAVORED
BY CHAIRMANSHIP OF DENMARK'S PETER HANSEN, WHOSE KNOWLEDGE
OF UN PROGRAMS AND METHODS OF OPERATION, PRODIGIOUS CAPACITY
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FOR WORK, AND FAIRNESS MADE HIM AN IDEAL LEADER. ANOTHER
PLUS WAS THE RELATIVE MODERATION OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRY
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. VERY FEW WERE HEARD FROM AT ALL.
PAKISTAN, REPRESENTED BY KEMAL, APPEARED TO CONSIDER ITSELF
THE MAJOR G-77 SPOKESMAN BUT GENERALLY AVOIDED CONTENTION
AND USUALLY JOINED IN THE COURSE COMMITTEE AS A WHOLE
STEERED TOWARD MORE EFFECTIVE PROGRAMMING.

2. AS WAS THE CASE LAST YEAR, ONLY A HANDFUL OF THE 21 CPC MEMBERS WERE GENUINELY ACTIVE -- A FEW WESTERN DELEGATIONS, THE USSR, PAKISTAN, AND TO A LESSER DEGREE ARGENTINA AND KENYA. CLEARLY MANY DELEGATIONS WERE QUITE UNPREPARED TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSION WHICH PRESUPPOSED BROAD KNOWLEDGE OF UN PROGRAMS AND CLOSE STUDY OF VOLUMINOUS DOCUMENTATION WHICH WAS LATE IN REACHING THE DELEGATIONS. THE SPOTTY PATTERN OF ACTIVITY IN COMMITTEE COULD MAKE IT HARDER FOR THE COMMITTEE TO WIN BROAD SUPPORT FOR ITS ROLE AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. IN ALMOST EVERY AREA WITH WHICH IT DEALT, THE CPC FOUND THE SECRETARIAT'S MATERIALS AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS WOEFULLY INADEQUATE IN EXPLAINING RELATIVE PRIORITIES OF PROGRAMS; NEVERTHELESS, BUILDING ON ITS FINDINGS LAST YEAR, IT DID REACH SOME CONCLUSIONS OF ITS OWN ABOUT PRIORITIES WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION BY BOTH THE ACABQ AND THE FIFTH COMMITTEE. TO AID ITS FUTURE WORK, IT RECOMMENDED THAT THE SYG BE INSTRUCTED BY THE GA, TO IDENTIFY IN EACH PROGRAM OF HIS NEXT PROGRAM BUDGET THE 10 PERCENT OF RESOURCES REQUESTED REPRESENTING THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TASKS AND THE 10 PERCENT REPRESENTING THE LOWEST PRIORITY TASKS. DESPITE THE CLEAR DIRECTIVE OF GA RES 31/93, IN NO CASE THIS YEAR WAS CPC SUPPLIED BY THE SECRETARIAT WITH THE REQUISITE INFORMATION ON MARGINAL, OBSOLETE AND INEFFECTIVE PROGRAMS.

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4. AIDED BY AN EXCELLENT PRESENTATION ON EVALUATION PROBLEMS GIVEN BY JIU CHAIRMAN BERTRAND IN THE FIRST WEEK, THE CPC TREATED WITH WITHERING CONTEMPT ALMOST ALL THE EVALUATION MATERIAL IT RECEIVED FROM THE SECRETARIAT, WITH THE PARTIAL EXCEPTION OF UNEP. THE REPORT BY INSPECTOR EARL SOHM ON EVALUATION WAS ALSO HELPFUL IN FOCUSING THE COMMITTEE ON HIGH EVALUATION STANDARDS. IT WAS WIDELY PRAISED AS LAYING A GOOD FOUNDATION FOR FURTHER WORK IN EVALUATION, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS SOME QUIBBLING BY THE USSR AND A FEW OTHER DELGATIONS WHO EVIDENTLY FEARED SOHM WAS OPENING THE WAY TO A HUGE NEW EVALUATION BUREAUCRACY. IN ONE OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS THE CPC INVITED THE JIU TO CONTINUE TO ASSIST IT THROUGH ORAL OR WRITTEN COMMENTS ON FUTURE EVALUATION REPORTS.

5. THE CPC GAVE THE UN INFORMATION PROGRAM PARTICULARLY CLOSE SCRUTINY, PROBABLY BECAUSE IT CAME EARLY ON THE AGENDA, TO THE VISIBLE DISCOMFITURE OF OPI OFFICIALS. APART FROM HOLDING OPI TO ITS BELOW-AVERAGE GROWTH AGREED LAST YEAR, THE COMMITTEE CALLED FOR IMPROVED PROGRAM MONITORING, BETTER IDENTIFICATION OF TARGET AUDIENCES AND ELIMINATION OF OUTPUT DIRECTED TO SHRINKING AUDIENCES,

A SPEEDED-UP PRODUCTION OF THE YEARBOOK AND PUBLICATION OF THE MONTHLY CHRONICLE ON A QUARTERLY BASIS. THE COMMITTEE OPPOSED THE CREATION OF A NEW GOVERNING BODY FOR OPI, AND CONFINED ITSELF TO RECOMMENDING MORE TECHNICAL PROFESSIONALISM IN THE CONSULTATIVE PANEL FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION AND BETTER SERVICING OF THAT BODY. US OBJECTIVES FOR OPI WERE SUBSTANTIALLY MET, ALTHOUGH CPC ENDORSED THE PREDOMINANCE IN OPI WORK OF PUBLICITY ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MATTERS WHERE POSSIBILITY OF CONFLICT WITH US GOALS IS STRONG.

6. THE TRANSPORT FIELD PROVED TO BE THE ONLY ONE WHERE ANY CONTENTION AT ALL DEVELOPED AND IT NEVER GOT FAR OFF THE GROUND. AT ISSUE WERE THE RESPECTIVE ROLES OF ESA, UNCTAD, AND IMCO. THERE WAS NO DIFFICULTY IN THE COMMITTEE IN AGREEING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO RECOMMEND THAT AS TO MARITIME TRANSPORT, IMCO SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SAFETY AND TECHNICAL MATTERS AND UNCTAD FOR TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT ASPECTS, AND THAT ESA SHOULD HAVE THE OVERALL COORDINATION FOR ALL TRANSPORT QUESTIONS, WITH LAND TRANSPORT ACTIVITIES TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM HEAD-QUARTERS TO THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS IN ASIA, AFRICA, AND LATIN AMERICA. (TO FINANCE THIS INCREASED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS, CPC RECOMMENDED THAT RESOURCES BE REDEPLOYED FROM OTHER AREAS WHERE IT ASKED FOR CUTBACKS TO EARLIER PLANNED GROWTH RATES.) THE UNCTAD BID TO BECOME THE FOCAL POINT IN THE UN SYSTEM ON MARITIME TRANSPORT QUESTIONS WAS THUS STYMIED, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY.

7. THE CPC WAS RELATIVELY PLEASED WITH THE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM EXCEPT ON THE QUESTION OF TRANSFERS OF POSTS FROM EXTRA-BUDGETARY FUNDING TO THE REGULAR BUDGET (SEE BELOW). IT SPENT LITTLE TIME ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, IN VIEW OF FACT THAT THE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ARISING OUT OF THE HABITAT CONFERENCE ARE STILL UNSETTLED.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

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8. THERE WAS REMARKABLY UNITY WITHIN THE COMMITTEE ON THE UNDESIRABILITY AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE OF LOADING THE REGULAR BUDGET WITH EXPENSES HITHERTO FUNDED BY EXTRABUDGETARY SOURCES. OPI AND UNEP BOTH HAD TO TAKE THE HEAT ON THIS ISSUE, AND THE COMMITTEE ADVISED THE GA TO CONSIDER ANY SUCH PROPOSALS IN THE LIGHT OF THE RELATIVE GROWTH RATE ALREADY APPROVED FOR THE ACTIVITY IN QUESTION.

9. THE COMMITTEE ALSO CAME DOWN RATHER HARD ON ALL CASES WHERE THE PROGRAM BUDGET PROPOSED A HIGHER RELATIVE GROWTH RATE THAN THE COMMITTEE HAD APPROVED LAST YEAR. THIS INCLUDED NOT ONLY OPI AND UNEP BUT SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL, AND HUMAN RIGHTS. IN NARCOTICS THE CRITICISM WAS MODERATED BY RECOGNITION THAT RECENT ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE 1971 CONVENTION ON PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES HAD CREATED AN INCREASED WORK-LOAD; IT ASKED THAT THE TASKS INVOLVED BY FINANCED THROUGH SAVINGS ELSEWHERE IN THE PROGRAM OR BY THE FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL. THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION ON HUMAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RIGHTS WAS ALSO TO STICK TO THE EARLIER PLANNED GROWTH RATE, BUT AT US SUGGESTION, THE SCRUTINY WHICH THE COMMITTEE REQUESTED OF CERTAIN SUB-PROGRAMS IN THIS AREA WAS PLACED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF A QUEST FOR EFFICIENCY. AN ARGENTINE EFFORT TO TAKE THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION TO TASK FOR A VARIETY OF ALLEGED INADEQUACIES DID NOT PROSPER.

10. THE COMMITTEE'S DISCUSSION OF COORDINATION PROBLEMS, WITH OTHER AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATING, WAS PROBING AND LED TO THE CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION THAT FUTURE INFORMATION ON THE RESULTS OF PRIOR CONSULTATIONS BE PROVIDED BY ACC TO CPC ON A PROGRAM SECTOR-BY-SECTOR RATHER THAN AN ORGANIZATION-BY-ORGANIZATION BASIS. IN THIS CONNECTION CPC DECIDED TO REVIEW IN DETAIL AT ITS 1978 SESSION UN ACTIVITIES

RELATING TO ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, INFORMATION SYSTEMS WITHIN THE UN, AND PROGRAMS ON TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT THE FORTH-COMING CPC/ACC JOINT MEETINGS WOULD TAKE UP (A) DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES OF THE UN SYSTEM AND (B) WAYS AND MEANS OF STRENGTHENING THE CONTRIBUTION OF ORGANIZATIONS TO THE WORK OF CPC AND ECOSOC. THE CPC REVIEW OF COORDINATION AND THE JOINT MEETINGS COMING UP SHOULD BOTH LEAD TO IMPROVED ACC PERFORMANCE.

11. COMMENT: THE CPC WAS REASONABLY SCRUPULOUS IN OBSERVING THE LINE OF DEMARCATION BETWEEN ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND THOSE OF THE ACABQ, THUS THE BASIC US VIEW ON THEIR DISTINCT BUT COMPLEMENTARY ROLES WAS BY AND LARGE ADHERED TO SATISFACTORILY. UNDER VERY UNFAVORABLE CIRCUMSTANCES OF TIME CONSTRAINTS AND POOR COOPERATION FROM THE SECRETARIAT, THE COMMITTEE DID SURPRISINGLY WELL. WHILE IT MAY NEVER CARRY OUT ITS RATHER GRANDIOSE PROGRAM PRIORITY SETTING AND COORDINATION JOB FULLY, IT CAN MAKE A DISTINCT CONTRIBUTION TO INCREASING UN EFFECTIVENESS IF IT LOWERS ITS QUANTITATIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SIGHTS SOMEWHAT AND CONTINUES TO ENJOY THE EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP WHICH PETER HANSEN HAS PROVIDED.
LEONARD

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Message Attributes

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